

Ambassador Mull's Remarks – M-ATV Event
February 25, 2015

Good afternoon. I'd like to thank Major General Patalong and Lieutenant General Majewski for organizing this ceremony and inviting me to take part. Thanks as well to my colleagues from the U.S. Department of Defense who helped make the transfer of these vehicles possible.

Today, we celebrate the arrival of 45 vehicles that will benefit Poland's Armed Forces in their operations. These vehicles are called "Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All Terrain Vehicles" for a reason: they have a proven record of saving lives, and they will serve you well. They exemplify the strong tradition of U.S.-Polish partnership and America's continuing commitment to Poland's security.

In recent years our soldiers have fought bravely together, side by side, in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and in the Balkans. Now, as we confront Russia's aggression in Ukraine, we must continue to broaden our partnership, which is so essential for the security of our countries. We must continue to strengthen NATO defense capabilities. And we must work together to defend our countries from the global scourge of terrorism.

These security challenges remind us that we can never take peace and prosperity for granted. But we should also remember that Poland in 2015 is more prosperous, free, and secure than at any other time in its history. In the United States, we are proud of our partnership with Poland, and we are dedicated to doing our part to help ensure Poland's continued security and prosperity.

The United States and Poland have taken our security relationship to a new level with a growing U.S. military presence in Poland. Since the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, we've had a steady stream of F-16s, C-130s, and hundreds of airmen, soldiers, paratroopers, and now armored vehicles. The delivery of these vehicles today is just one small part of that partnership. As President Obama said in Warsaw last summer, "We stand together – now and forever – for your freedom is ours. Poland will never stand alone."

Thank you.